

FCC

Ref: Local Cable Franchise

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As we move towards big mega companies distilling people's individual talents and interests into the average acceptable mold, local community television serves an increasingly important role. That tiny city government channel or public access channel deals with the local issues in one of the most cost effective ways available.

Cheaper than mass mailings, or publishing newspapers, that 2-5% on the cable TV bill enable free exchange of ideas, promotes local democracy and showcases local talent.

In our community, 42% of the school children speak another language at home. Their parents are struggling to understand our new parking tax, the debate over sewage treatment plant improvements, and issues about school curriculum. Without our local public access station translating, discussing, debating these issues, a large segment of our community would be disenfranchised. They pay the taxes, but would have no voice.

I ask you to maintain this source of funding from the cable companies, and to support a level playing field for the cable companies by requiring comparable funding from their competitors. Let the vast amount of profit these companies make trickle down just a little bit to the people they serve. Considering the benefits its really not too much to ask.

Thank you

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